

REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 22nd April 1893.

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URIYA PAPERS.

Nil.

ASSAM PAPERS.

Nil.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Bankura Darpan" ...	Bankura ...	360	15th April 1893.
2	"Grāmvasi" ...	Ramkristopur, Howrah ...	1,000	
3	"Kaliyuga" ...	Calcutta ...	...	
4	"Kasipur Nivasi" ...	Kasipur, Barisal ...	300	12th ditto.
5	"Navamihir" ...	Ghatail, Mymensingh ...	500	
6	"Sadar-o-Mufassal" ...	Tahirpur, Rajshahi ...	650	
7	"Ulubaria Darpan" ...	Ulubaria ...	755	13th ditto.
<i>Tri-monthly.</i>				
8	"Hitakari" ...	Tangail Mymensingh ...	800	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
9	"Bangavasi" ...	Calcutta ...	20,000	15th ditto.
10	"Banganivasi" ...	Ditto ...	8,000	14th ditto.
11	"Burdwan Sanjivani" ...	Burdwan ...	320	11th ditto.
12	"Cháruvartá" ...	Sherpur, Mymensingh ...	300	10th ditto.
13	"Dacca Prakásh" ...	Dacca ...	5,000	16th ditto.
14	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly ...	1,050	14th ditto.
15	"Hindu Ranjiká" ...	Boalia, Rajshahi ...	212	
16	"Hitavadi" ...	Calcutta ...	3,000	13th ditto.
17	"Murshidábád Pratinidhi" ...	Berhampore ...	...	
18	"Prakriti" ...	Calcutta ...	...	13th ditto.
19	"Pratikar" ...	Berhampore ...	611	14th ditto.
20	"Rangpur Dikprakash" ...	Kakinia, Rangpur ...	170	
21	"Sahachar" ...	Calcutta ...	800-1,000	12th ditto.
22	"Samáj-o-Sáhitya" ...	Garibpore, Nadia ...	1,000	16th ditto.
23	"Samaya" ...	Calcutta ...	3,000	14th ditto.
24	"Sanjivani" ...	Ditto ...	4,000	15th ditto.
25	"Sansodhini" ...	Chittagong ...	...	
26	"Saraswat Patra" ...	Dacca ...	(300-400)	15th ditto.
27	"Som Prakásh" ...	Calcutta ...	800	17th ditto.
28	"Srimanta Sadagar" ...	Ditto ...	...	
29	"Sudhakar" ...	Ditto ...	3,600	14th ditto.
<i>Daily.</i>				
30	"Banga Vidyá Prakáshiká" ...	Calcutta ...	500	15th and 17th April 1893.
31	"Bengal Exchange Gazette" ...	Ditto ...	...	17th April 1893.
32	"Dainik-o-Samáchar Chandriká" ...	Ditto ...	1,500	16th to 20th April 1893.
33	"Samvád Prabhákar" ...	Ditto ...	1,435	15th and 18th ditto.
34	"Samvád Purnachandrojaya" ...	Ditto ...	300	14th, 15th and 17th to 20th April 1893.
35	"Sulabh Dainik" ...	Ditto ...	...	15th and 17th to 20th April 1893.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
36	"Dacca Gazette"	Dacca	500-600	17th April 1893.
HINDI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
37	"Darjeeling Mission ke Másik Samáchar Patrika."	Darjeeling	400	12th ditto.
<i>Weekly.</i>				
38	"Aryávarta"	Dinapore	750	13th ditto.
39	"Bihar Bandhu"	Bankipore	500	
40	"Bhárat Mitra"	Calcutta	1,500	
41	"Champaran Chandrika"	Bettiah	350	
42	"Desí Vyápári"	Calcutta	.....	
43	"Hindi Bangavási"	Ditto	5,000	
URDU.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
44	"Akhbar-i-Al Punch"	Bankipore	750	10th ditto. 13th ditto.
45	"Anis"	Patna	.....	
46	"Calcutta Punch"	Calcutta	.....	
47	"Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide"	Ditto	300	
48	"General and Gauhariasfi"	Ditto	410	
49	"Mehre Monawar"	Muzaffarpur	.....	
50	"Reis-ul-Akhbar-i-Murshidabad"	Murshidabad	150	
51	"Setare Hind"	Arrah	.....	
52	"Shokh"	Monghyr	100	
URIYA.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
53	"Asha"	Cuttack	80	
54	"Echo"	Ditto	.....	
55	"Pradíp"	Ditto	.....	
56	"Samyabadi"	Ditto	.....	
57	"Taraka and Subhavártá"	Ditto	.....	
58	"Utkalprabhá"	Baripada	250	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
59	"Dipaka"	Cuttack	.....	
60	"Samvad Váhika"	Balasore	225	
61	"Uriya and Navasamvád"	Ditto	420	
62	"Utkal Dípiká"	Cuttack	400	
PAPERS PUBLISHED IN ASSAM.				
BENGALI.				
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
63	"Paridarshak"	Sylhet	480	
64	"Silchar"	Silchar	250	

I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

The Afghan policy of Government.

The *Sudhakar*, of the 14th April, has the following on the Afghan policy of Government:—

SUDHAKAR,
April 14th, 1893.

It seems that the Russians have abandoned the idea of entering India by the Herat route, and that they now contemplate choosing the Kashmere route for the purpose. This is because they find the Amir of Kabul a staunch ally of the English, and cannot therefore, count upon his support in their contest with that power. Though the Amir is no doubt a devoted friend of the British Government, the feeling of his subjects towards the English is distinctly hostile. The previous British invasions of Afghanistan and the cruelties perpetrated upon her people are quite fresh in their memory, and have completely alienated them from the English. If the English had followed a more conciliatory and humane policy towards the Afghans, they would have been able, with their help, at once to meet the Russians at Herat, and there would have been no necessity for the heavy expenditure on frontier defences. As matters, however, now stand, it is the interest of the Government of India to treat the Amir in such a way as will improve the existing friendly relations with him. But instead of doing so, the Viceroy acting on the advice of the Foreign Office very often does things which are calculated to wound his feelings. And the Anglo-Indian papers, which rejoice as much at a prospect of war as vultures do on the breaking out of a cattle-plague, slander and abuse him in season and out of season. It is, therefore, desirable that the Liberal party should see their way to put an effective check upon this mischievous tendency of the Anglo-Indian Press.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

2. The *Bankura Darpan*, of the 15th April, says that dacoities are being frequently committed in the district of Bankura. The dacoits not only rob the people of their property, but outrage the modesty of their women. The police have been unsuccessful in tracing the culprits.

BANKURA DARPAN,
April 15th, 1893.

3. Referring to the recent dacoity at Dakhalpur near Jhanpardaha, in the district of Hooghly, a correspondent of the same paper says that it was committed by some notorious dacoits of the village Tentulmari, thana Indas, district Bankura. They had previously committed many other dacoities, but escaped detection either through the negligence of the police or for some other reason. It is to be regretted that the *ghatwals* who get allowances from Government sometimes themselves commit robberies. If any trustworthy Inspector of Police is appointed to investigate the matter, many gentlemen will be but too glad to help him in the detection of these dacoits.

BANKURA DARPAN.

4. A correspondent of the same paper says that during the last month two dacoities, one of which was of an atrocious character, took place within the jurisdiction of Raipur thana, in the Bankura district. The dacoits have not yet been detected. They threatened that they would use bows and arrows in the perpetration of the dacoity. In many villages in south Bankura there are lots of men who have no ostensible means of livelihood. Under these circumstances, unless the local Magistrate takes special measures to ensure the safety of the people, they will be compelled to leave their homes. The police does not come to their assistance on the first information. It is strange that these dacoities are taking place even when rice is selling at twelve seers and paddy at twenty-five seers a rupee.

BANKURA DARPAN.

5. A correspondent of the *Sulabh Dainik*, of the 15th April, complains of having been lately attacked by a gang of *gundas* near Beadon Square in Calcutta in broad daylight.

SULABH DAINIK,
April 15th, 1893.

Oppression by *gundas*.

SULABH DAINIK,
April 20th, 1893.

6. The *Sulabh Dainik*, of the 20th April, cannot understand why the authorities do not send away to some other part of the town the prostitutes dwelling in the neighbourhood of Beadon Square, and says that it is strange that, though Government is doing so much for improving school-boy morality, it should allow brothels to exist near schools. The localities in which the Oriental Seminary and the Sobhabazar branch of the Metropolitan Institution are situated are inhabited by prostitutes, who should be removed therefrom.

The writer would also draw the attention of the police to the oppression committed by *gundas* near Beadon Square. On the night of the 18th April last, a number of *gundas* in Beadon Square violently assaulted a man with a view of extorting from him a few pice, and did not let him off until the money was paid.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
April 11th, 1893.

Convictions by Deputy Magistrates.

7. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 11th April, gives the following case decided by a Deputy Magistrate, whom it will not name:—

On the morning of the 8th March last a woman, named Racha Kongar, was murdered in a village named Sarai Buksh. At 8 A.M. of the same day the village chaukidar gave notice of the murder at the local thana. The head-constable came and commenced investigation at 9 A.M. The Daroga Babu arrived at 9 P.M. The zamindars of the village in which the murder was committed lived at a place four miles distant. A servant of theirs saw the Daroga next day, the 9th March, and formally reported the murder on behalf of his employers. This, however, did not satisfy the Daroga, and he sent a report to the Magistrate accusing sixteen persons, including four of the zamindars of the village, of not having sent notice of the murder to the thana in time. The Magistrate made them over to the Deputy Magistrate for trial under section 176 of the Penal Code. The Deputy Magistrate fined ten of the sixteen accused. On appeal the Judge, while setting aside the sentence so far as it related to the four zamindars, remarked that there was no evidence on the side of the Crown that these persons were aware, on the 8th March, that a murder had been committed in Sarai Buksh on that date. Moreover, as the same authority observed, presuming they knew of the murder shortly after it was committed, it was only fair to presume that they also knew that the village chaukidar had gone to inform the police. The writer remarks that constant worry and anxiety of service had so much overtaxed his brain that the Deputy Magistrate was incapable of giving weight to those broad considerations. There was no attempt on the part of anybody to hide the offence: a regular enquiry was held and the conduct of the accused did not result in any harm to society. And yet the Deputy Magistrate fined the accused. The writer is at a loss to see why Deputy Magistrates forget the fact that the provision of punishments for an offence often leads to the commission of that offence, and that it is therefore necessary to observe the greatest care in applying the criminal law. As a consequence of the inconsiderate conduct of the Deputy Magistrates, even the respectable people of the country are going to be included in the class of criminal offenders, and it is this more than anything else which causes uneasiness to the writer. The Viceroy said the other day "whenever in this country you resort to legislation, you have to bear in mind not only the good results which it is possible to obtain if your law is used as you mean it to be, but the bad results which are likely to follow if your law is dishonestly, ignorantly, or brutally enforced." Will not these remarks of the Viceroy bring the Deputy Magistrates to their senses?

SAHACHAR,
April 12th, 1893.

Trial by Jury.

8. The *Sahachar*, of the 12th April, has the following:—

By appointing the Jury Commission, Government has really done good to the country. The Commission have come to the conclusion that there is no foundation for the charges which hitherto used to be preferred against the system of trial by jury, and that jurors never give wilfully wrong verdicts, and that native jurors understand the habits and customs of the people better than European Judges. Thus jury trial has come out unscathed of the fiery ordeal to which it was subjected. The Commission have indirectly admitted

the necessity of extending that form of trial. And now that such trial has been restored to the seven districts which enjoyed it before, the people of those districts ought to help their countrymen in other districts in obtaining it. They should remember that the latter had joined the agitation and that their demand for jury trial is not unjust. Let the people of Bengal also remember that the Asamese too are Bengalis. What are they doing? Let the Assamese and the people of the non-jury districts in Bengal hold meetings and send up memorials to Government praying for the jury right. The Jury Commission have made one very serious statement, namely, that the number of Judges who can manage a jury is small. If this be so, then the people should ask for "double juries", for even an indifferent Judge can do his work properly with the help of such juries.

9. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 16th April, says that it appears on a reference to the new list of jurors for Calcutta that the number of natives both as common and special jurors stands at a lower figure in comparison with that of the jurors from other communities. Surely there must have been great defects in the matter of selection. Among the natives (Hindus and Muham-madans) of Calcutta, there are very many men who are fit to serve as jurors. Their number as jurors should, therefore, be increased.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
April 16th, 1893.

10. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 18th April, says that the names of many incompetent and sometimes of dead persons are found in the mufassal jury lists. The task of revising these lists should be entrusted to the District Boards. The Deputy Inspectors of Schools, who tour from place to place, and whose duty requires them to come in contact with respectable classes of people, can render much help to the members of the Boards in the matter. Moreover, there are now independent public bodies in many districts, and they too can render much help to these authorities in the selection of jurors. It is also the duty of the respectable people in each district to send the names of eligible persons to the Magistrate. In the Calcutta jury list, the names of Europeans and Eurasians preponderate. This is not as it should be. The public bodies in Calcutta, as well as the Calcutta Municipality, can render much help in the selection of jurors. The rate-payers of Calcutta ought to convene public meetings for the purpose of preparing a list of jurors. In the jury list recently published, many people whose names should have been included in the list of special jurors, have been selected as common jurors. Babu Chandra Nath Basu, Bengali Translator, Babu Krishna Chandra Roy, Head-master of the Hindu School, Babu Ambika Charan Basu, Personal Assistant to the Director of Public Instruction, should have been selected as special jurors. There can be no doubt that some 50 to 60 persons whose names appear in the list of common jurors should have been made special jurors. Moreover, steps should be taken to keep down the European and the Eurasian element in the Calcutta jury list. It is hoped that Sir Comer Pethram will look to the matter, for it was he who expressed regret at the paucity of native jurors while trying the *Bangavasi* defamation case.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
April 18th, 1893.

(d)—Education.

11. The *Hitavadi*, of the 13th April, says that the present *Pravesika*, or the text-book in Sanskrit for the Entrance examination, is full of objectionable passages, and gives the following by way of illustration:—

The Sanskrit text-book for the
Entrance examination.

HITAVADI,
April 13th, 1893.

1. In page 15 of the compilation occurs a passage, (আত্মানং সততং রক্ষৎ দারৈরপি ধনৈরপি) which means—One should always protect his own self even by sacrificing his wife and his riches! The moral of this line is certainly very objectionable.
2. In page 10 occurs a passage (বিশ্বাসো নৈব কর্তব্যঃ স্ত্রীষু রাজকুলেষুচ) which means—One should not put one's trust in women and in kings!
3. In page 58 occurs a line which means—"A father who fails to give away his daughter in marriage incurs blame; so does also

a husband who fails to approach his wife at her catamenia. Sentiments like these have to be publicly explained to boys of tender years preparing for the Entrance examination.

PRATIKAR,
April 14th, 1893.

12 The *Pratihar*, of the 14th April, approves of the revised regulations for the Roychand Premchand studentship of the Calcutta University, in so far as they require successful students to carry on original research.

The revised regulations for the Roychand Premchand studentship. But the writer cannot approve of the division of some of the subjects of examination, such as science, philosophy, &c., into parts, and treating these parts as independent and separate subjects for the purpose of the examination. Such a division is calculated to impart narrowness to the candidate's study, although it may ensure thoroughness in one particular subject. The tendency of modern civilization is to destroy narrowness of culture, and the new regulations will not certainly further that tendency. The present division of the subjects will give an undue advantage to students, who take up, science, and place those who take up the languages at a disadvantage. The writer will refer particularly to Sanskrit, which is so vast a subject, including literature, philosophy, law, &c., that it will be difficult for a student of this subject to compete successfully with one who takes up only a part of some one of the other subjects. Sanskrit is a subject which absolutely needs division for purposes of the examination, and it is because it has not been divided, like the other subjects, into parts, that candidates are found unwilling to take it up for the Roychand Premchand examination.

It has also been ruled that no candidate for the examination will be allowed to take up more than one language. This rule does not appear to be free from objection. In the present condition of the Bengali literature, it is absolutely necessary that students should read thoroughly both the English and the Sanskrit language with a view of developing their own literature.

SANJIVANI,
April 15th, 1893.

13. The *Sanjivani*, of the 15th April, says that, according to the *Indian Mirror*, the Hooghly Collegiate School is about to be abolished. This is not impossible under Sir

Charles Elliott's administration, seeing what an enemy of high education His Honour is. And Sir Charles has got disciples quite worthy of himself. Thus as regards the maintenance of the Krishnagore College, when the local Municipality and the District Board of Nadia expressed their willingness to maintain the institution at their own cost, Mr. Westmacott, the Commissioner of the Presidency Division, opposed the idea on the ground that the local bodies had no right to spend public money on high education. No, public money could not be spent on education, but it could be spent in giving receptions to officials. Indeed, in trying to check the progress of high education, Sir Charles Elliott is acting like the greatest enemy of the country. Agitation has wrecked Sir Charles Elliott's pet Municipal Bill, agitation has nullified the jury notification, and now let an agitation be set on foot to frustrate Sir Charles' educational policy. And if this agitation succeeds, Sir Charles will have a tattered reputation to take with him at the close of his official career in India.

BANKURA DARPAN,
April 15th, 1893.

14. The *Bankura Darpan*, of the 15th April, says that by order of Dr. Martin, Director of Public Instruction, the Upper Primary and Middle Vernacular examinations will be henceforward held at only two places in the district of Bankura, namely, the District and the sub-divisional head-quarters. This arrangement will cause serious inconvenience to the little boys who compete for the Upper Primary examination, many of whom will not be able to be present at the examination at all.

SAMAJ-O-SAHITYA,
April 16th, 1893.

The Central Text-Book Committee.

15. The *Samaj-o-Sahitya*, of the 16th April, publishes the following in English:—

"A word to Dr. Martin, Offg. Director of Public Instruction, on the desirability of a thorough revision in the scheme of the Central Text-book Committee.

"As the main spring of the whole machinery of the Education Department has, it affords us much pleasure to be able to say, been entrusted in the hands of so experienced, so worthy, so conscientious, so just, so painstaking, and so penetrating a man as Dr. Martin, and as revision in the whole system of education has engrossed his earnest attention, we avail ourselves of this opportunity to lay before him what we have to say on this subject of national importance.

"As in the proper exercise of the function of the Text-book Committee are centred all our hopes and expectations, so far as education is concerned, we take up the Text-Book Committee as our first subject.

"It is quite feasible that Government should have been satisfied with the management and proceedings of the Text-Book Committee, and thrown off the idea of its interference in their management, when it is remembered that the latter is entrusted in the hands of some of the eminent men of this country. Government cannot, therefore, be found fault with having been so satisfied. But alas! 'what's in a name,' as the poet of Avon exclaims. The Text-book Committee have ever since received no *active co-operation* from these valued members. They have freely allowed things to grow from bad to worse.

"The growing evils in the Text-book Committee, which were lately subject to severe criticism of the press, instead of being dwindled, are making steady progress. Now that we have got so worthy a man as Dr. Martin in the chair of the Director of Public Instruction, we will, we are sanguine, ere long see a thorough revision in the scheme of the Text-book Committee at his hands.

"As the selection of text-books constitutes the first and foremost, in fact, the sole, duty of the Committee, we record here what we have to say on this all-important question.

"*First.*—It is a much-lamented fact that best books are not always selected as text-books. It needs scarcely be said that in most instances official authority or personal influence stands in the way of *suitable* text-books being adopted. If Dr. Martin, as an experimental measure, issued a circular allowing authors to speak with *impunity*,* what they have to say on the selection of text-books, his table, we are sure, would groan under heaps of applications complaining of the injustice done to them, to their works, and to the pupils who have often to forego the advantage of studying the best books."

16. The *Som Prakash*, of the 17th April, says that it is a matter of very great regret that Government is resolved to abolish the Krishnagar College. The reason why it contemplates doing so is not known. Calcutta may well afford to be without a Government College. But in the mufassal it is a necessity, and a first-class college cannot be maintained there by private enterprise. Government should, therefore, re-consider the question of the abolition of the Krishnagar College.

SOM PRAKASH,
April 17th, 1893.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

17. The *Burdwan-Sanjivani*, of the 11th April, has the following:—

The post of Pound-Inspector under the Burdwan Sadar Local Board.

The Lieutenant-Governor wishes to abolish the post of Inspector of Cattle-pounds, and to require Inspectors of Schools to do the duties of that officer in addition to their own. There is a Pound-Inspector under the Burdwan Sadar Local Board. It is the duty of this officer to inspect all cattle-pounds under the Board, and to look after village roads and sanitation in the mufassal. Since his appointment cattle-pound oppression has greatly decreased, the number of pounds has increased, and the ijardars are doing their duties properly. The Commissioner of Burdwan has, however, written to the District Board for the abolition of the post. He cannot be blamed for this, for he is bound to consult the wishes of the Lieutenant-Governor in all matters. The Board, however, wishes to retain the post, and a perusal of its report on the subject will convince the Commissioner that the good of the country requires its retention, and that the duties of a Pound-Inspector cannot be properly done by Inspectors of Schools. The latter have lots of work to do, and cannot find time even to inspect the schools under them once in a month. And if they are now required to inspect pounds as well as schools, neither will be properly inspected.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
April 11th, 1893.

18. The *Samay*, of the 14th April, says that, in consideration of the inconvenience which a stoppage of the tram-service will cause to the Calcutta public, and of the large number of men who will be thrown out of employment, the Municipal authorities ought to show a little concession to the Tramways Company. They should bear in mind that they are taking a very large sum as road-rent from the Company, which they will lose if the Company winds up its business.

SAMAYA,
April 14th, 1893.

* It is a well-known fact that teachers, pandits, pupils, and authors in service in the Education Department dare not speak truth for fear of their superiors.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
April 16th, 1893.

19. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 16th April, has the following on the threatened stoppage of the tramway-service in Calcutta:—

It is very likely that it is under the evil advice of Mr. Maples, Manager of the Tramways Company, that their directors at home are threatening to discontinue the tram-service in case the Calcutta Corporation refuse to reduce the road-rent now payable by them. If the tramway-service ceases, the Company itself will be the losers. Neither the Corporation nor the people of Calcutta will lose anything. For the latter can always have an ample supply of hackney carriages. If, however, the Corporation were to remit so much as half the rent due from the Company, it would find itself in a great difficulty to make up for the loss. And it would be extremely unjust if the Corporation were to increase the tax payable by the rate-payers with a view to recoup themselves for the loss in question.

SOM PRAKASH,
April 17th, 1893.

20. The *Som Prakash*, of the 17th April, says that the Calcutta public is extremely dissatisfied with the Corporation for asking the Tramways Company to pay a larger sum as road-rent, and to run their cars only on one side of the road. It seems that in making the above request the Corporation did not take the least care to consider the expense and the trouble to which their compliance with it would subject the Company.

SOM PRAKASH.

21. A correspondent of the same paper says that the local Municipality has been filling up with refuse portions of the drains on two sides of the main-road passing through the village of Satragachi in the district of Howrah. The offensive smell issuing from the refuse, and the numberless flies settling over it, have proved a serious nuisance. Cholera has broken out in the neighbourhood, and seven or eight people have already fallen victims to it.

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

SUDHAKAR,
April 14th, 1893.

22. The *Sudhakar*, of the 14th April, says that in Mymensingh some of the landlords exact illegal cesses from their raiyats, and with a view to prevent them from acquiring any permanent right in their lands, make them execute kabuliyats for a limited time. And on the expiration of the term of the kabuliyats, the tenants are forced to pay to their landlords and their amla exorbitant premiums for having their leases renewed. Government ought to enquire into the matter, and take without delay such steps as would save the poor tenants from this oppression.

(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.

CHARUVARTA,
April 10th, 1892.

23. A correspondent of the *Charuvarta*, of the 10th April, says that people in East Bengal had so long to go to Comilla *via* Daudkandi, but when the Assam-Bengal Railway line is completed, a journey to Comilla from Dacca or Daudkandi will have to be made *via* Chandpur. The necessity for making this long detour, may be avoided by opening a branch line from Comilla to Daudkandi or Satnal. Such a line, if constructed, cannot fail to be a paying concern, as, owing to the transfer of the Daudkandi Munsifi to Comilla, people find frequent occasion to travel between Daudkandi and Comilla.

KASIPUR NIVASI,
April 12th, 1893.

24. The *Kasipur Nivasi*, of the 12th April, says that for the last few years great inconvenience has been caused to the local mail steamer service in consequence of the want of sufficient water during ebb tide in the Sirjug Canal below Pirojpur, near Jhalkathi and in some places in the Khulna district. It is, therefore, desirable that the authorities should take early steps to deepen the canal with the object of facilitating the passage of the steamer.

SAHACHAR,
April 12th, 1893.

25. The *Sahachar*, of the 12th April, has the following on the inconveniences of the native passengers travelling by rail:—

1. For the convenience of the native passengers, all through trains on the East Indian Railway line ought to make a halt at some station of at least 45 minutes in the morning. But the authorities pay no heed to the conveniences

of the natives, and the trains stop at 10 A.M., and then only for half-an-hour in order to enable the European passengers to have their tiffin.

2. Complaints regarding the want of water-closets in intermediate class carriages have been frequently made, but to no purpose. Would the prayer of the people in this respect have been disregarded if Europeans had largely travelled in that class of carriages? As it is, it is the old story of the authorities paying no heed to the convenience of the natives.

3. The first and second-class carriages on the Diamond Harbour line are like cages for birds. The second and intermediate class carriages on the same line are better than these. Trains on this line run at a very low rate of speed.

4. The absence of hackney carriages and palanquins at the Diamond Harbour railway station is much felt, and people who have to go to the local cutcherry have to travel a mile on foot. When the Diamond Harbour line was first constructed, the station was near the cutcherry. This old station still exists, and there is no reason why the trains should not run up to it. It is hoped the Lieutenant-Governor will look to the matter.

(h)—General.

26. The *Charuvarta*, of the 10th April, cannot approve of the Hon'ble Chentsal Rao's proposal to devote the surplus income of the Registration Department to the creation of more registration offices in the country. The surplus should be expended in giving higher salaries to the Registrars and their office staff. An increase in the number of registration offices will only lead to increased litigation in the country. The writer cannot also agree with the Hon'ble Member in thinking that the existing scale of registration fee is too low to permit of any reduction. In a poor country like India even the present fees are not low enough.

CHARUVARTA,
April 10th, 1893.

27. A correspondent of the same paper says that the inhabitants of Raipur, an important village in the Tippera district, petitioned the authorities for the establishment of a post-office in that village, but it is to be regretted that they have as yet received no reply to their representation.

CHARUVARTA.

28. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 11th April, proposes the following solution of the exchange difficulty:—

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
April 11th, 1893.

1. The number of European officers, the payment of whose pensions causes so heavy a drain on the revenues of India, should be reduced and natives largely appointed in their place.

2. As a means of avoiding the present heavy military expenditure, military schools should be opened in India, and sons of native noblemen, trained in these schools, appointed to high military posts. This will result in considerable saving of money.

3. Government should take steps to manufacture in India all articles which it now imports from England. The people of the country can form companies, and manufacture here many of the articles needed by Government, if only they get from it the necessary help and encouragement.

The carrying out of these proposals is likely to injure the interests of English manufacturers, but the Government of India ought not to sacrifice the good of India to those interests. It will be difficult to carry on the administration of India, if in all its acts Government consults only the interests of England. The good of India requires that England should to some extent sacrifice her own interests.

29. The *Sahachar*, of the 12th April, makes the following remarks in the course of an article headed "Have the European officials really any grievances?" :—

SAHACHAR,
April 12th, 1893.

"Have the European officials really any grievances?"
With a falling rupee the European officers of Government are, it is said, faring very badly. They have to send their children to England for education, and occasionally to go there themselves with family for the purpose of recruiting their health. All this proves a serious drain on their pecuniary resources. The *Pioneer* accordingly proposes that as a set off against their pecuniary embarrassments, a certain number of posts under

Government should be reserved for their children. Government, however, did not wait for the *Pioneer's* suggestion, and has been for some time past giving appointments to the sons of the officials who failed to pass the Civil Service Examination. These men rarely give any proof of ability, and it will be a political blunder to increase their number. But have the European officials really any grievances after all? The railways have now brought the hill stations near Calcutta, and Darjeeling is only 24 hours' journey from it. Good schools have been established in the hills, and if the officials began to educate their boys in this country, better schools would soon come into existence. And considering that in England the boys have to be kept in boarding institutions and taught by hired teachers and governesses, the education imparted in these hill schools, where the students might enjoy the occasional advantage of living with their parents, must necessarily be of a superior character. No complaints on the score of climate can be made against the hill stations. Moreover, living is much cheaper in India than in England, and one can always command the services of lots of servants here. The statement made by the officials that "we are living in exile here" is ludicrous. Very few of them have houses of their own in England, and nearly all of them live either in hotels or in boarding-houses. English national customs, and the distribution of the land under the English law, make it impossible for Englishmen to feel the same attachment for their places of residence and relations and acquaintances as the natives of this country feel for theirs. Thus an Anglo-Indian returning to England after a number of years may, if his parents happen to be living at the time, receive a fitting reception and occasional invitations to dinner, but there the matter ends, and he has to put up in a hotel. Mr. Anderson, a Cawnpur merchant, went to reside in England, but finding that there was no one who was disposed to recognise him as his own, has returned to India. The complaints of the officials about the inconveniences of their Indian life are therefore as much true as the statement that Indian jurors do not convict Brahmin offenders. If the officials only know how to conduct themselves wisely, they will have no cause for complaining on the score of the falling rupee.

KASIPUR NIVASI,
April 12th, 1893.

The Patuakhali subdivision of
the Barisal district.

30. The *Kasipur Nivasi*, of the 12th April, says that Patuakhali is a large subdivision, and a large number of suits, both civil and criminal, are instituted in its courts. But as no good food and pure drinking water are available here, no Munsif or Deputy Magistrate likes to be transferred to the subdivision, or, being transferred, desires to stay here long. There is no pucca building in the place for the use of the Subdivisional Officer. Government ought to direct its attention to the matter.

HITAVADI,
April 13th, 1893.

31. The *Hitavadi*, of the 13th April, refers to the proposal for new taxation, and makes the following remarks:—

The proposed new tax. Some say that the limit of taxable income under the Income-tax Act will be lowered, and low incomes like Rs. 250 a year will be assessed to the tax. This is sure to cause great inconvenience to the poor. All the public bodies in the country ought to get up an unanimous agitation against the proposal for the imposition of a new tax. While contemplating additional taxation, Government, the writer is sorry to say, is showing a perfect indifference in the matter of curtailing expenditure.

SAMAY,
April 14th, 1893.

The last Bengali year.

32. In reviewing the last Bengali year, the *Samay*, of the 14th April, makes the following remarks:—

Since taking charge of the Indian administration, Lord Lansdowne has given no proof of any special ability. The speech made by him on the eve of his departure for India, which raised so much expectation in the minds of the people, has proved only empty bragging. As year after year passes away, the hopes of the Indians, though enveloped in the gloom of despair, now and then brighten up and emit a faint, flickering light. That this temporary cheering up of their prospects is no indication of any permanent improvement was seen in the attempt made by Government to restrict the jury system. By passing the oppressive Coolie Law His Excellency has brought indelible disgrace on himself and the liberal British administration. No good work worth the name, excepting the re-constitution of the Legislative Councils at its close, was done in the course of the year which has just ended.

Next to the Viceroy comes the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. He is able, industrious and well versed in *niti* (political science). He professes to rule impartially, but does not always succeed in acting up to his profession. Under him many grave administrative changes were made and many new laws passed last year. His Honour's jury notification caused great uneasiness. What with the famine and scarcity caused by a deficient rainfall and what with the rigours of Sir Charles Elliott's rule, the people of Bengal lived in a perpetual state of anxiety and unrest during the last year.

British rule has conferred two great benefits on the people, *viz.*, it has taught them to discuss political matters and to get up political agitations. The people's ardour for political agitations is daily increasing. The Congress movement and the lots of political associations which have been established in the country are the outcome of this. The Municipal Bill, the Chaukidari Bill, and the Jury Notification were the measures against which an extensive agitation was carried on in the native press. The agitations against the cadastral survey of Bihar and the revenue settlement of Assam are also worth mentioning.

The condition of the allied and the Feudatory States of India show no improvement. These States are now the sporting grounds of British political officers. Lord Duffrin did much towards the re-organization of the armies of these States, and the matter also engaged the attention of the present Viceroy. The Native Chiefs have made much improvement in social matters. British rule has knocked many prejudices and superstitions out of them, and many of them are showing a desire for making sea-voyages.

Among the laws passed during the year, the Fire Brigade Act, the Inland Emigration Act, and the Village Chaukidari Act deserve special notice. The passing of the Inland Emigration Act has riveted the chains of slavery on the helpless coolies. The law has cast a deep stain on the British nation and Lord Lansdowne's administration. No heed was paid to the unanimous protests of the people against the measure. In framing it Government consulted the interests only of the planters, and not, as it should have done, those of the coolies. The oppression by coolie recruiters is on the increase, and even the honour of the coolie women is being jeopardised. There were many oppressive and objectionable provisions in the Municipal Bill and the Chaukidari Bill, the adoption of which would have laid the axe at the root of Local Self-Government. But they were abandoned after a sharp and incessant agitation.

The Universities showed no signs of improvement, but the University examinations seem to have been conducted with greater caution last year than in years gone by. The complaints against the selection of text-books by the Central Text-book Committee are on the increase.

33. The same paper refers to the case of Babu Devendra Nath Mitter, B.A., lately a clerk in the Bengal Secretariat, in the Revenue and General Departments, and says that there can be no doubt that some one had falsely maligned him to his superiors. It is hoped that the Lieutenant-Governor will do justice to him.

SAMAY.
April 14th, 1893.

34. The *Education Gazette*, of the 14th April, says that though Sir Charles Crosthwaite's Hurdwar speech, Charles Crosthwaite has made some strong remarks in the course of his Hurdwar speech, there can be no doubt that by undertaking the sanitary improvement of Hurdwar, he has deserved well of the Hindu community.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
April 14th, 1893.

35. The *Partikar*, of the 14th April, says that the people of Berhampore are sincerely sorry at the transfer of their Munsif, Babu Devendra Nath Mukharji. Babu Devendra Nath won the affection and respect of all men by his ability and suavity of manners.

PRATIKAR,
April 14th, 1893.

36. The *Sudhakar*, of the 14th April, says that by appointing Nawab Amir Hossain, C.I.E., to officiate in the post of Inspector-General of Registration, the Lieutenant-Governor has earned for himself the best thanks of the Muhammadan community, and that the appointment has created a right in favour of the natives of this country to a most important post under Government.

SUDHAKAR,
April 14th, 1893.

37. The *Sanjivani*, of the 15th April, is glad to notice that Nawab Amir Hossain has been temporarily appointed to the Inspector-Generalship of Registration, an office which has been hitherto held by a Civilian. The

SANJIVANI,
April 15th, 1893.

appointment of Maulavi Abdul Jubber to officiate for the Nawab in the Northern Division Magistracy of Calcutta has also given satisfaction. The Maulavi is an extremely able and conscientious judicial officer.

SANJIVANI.

38. The same paper says that it is being asked by many people whether

Sir Charles Elliott's leave.

Sir Charles Elliott will return to India after the expiry of his leave. The writer believes with the

Pioneer and the *Bombay Gazette* that it is unlikely that His Honour will again set foot on Indian soil, and he is informed that the Members of the Council of the Secretary of State have been very much displeased with Sir Charles, and that many of them were even prepared to have him re-called. It is probable that owing to this displeasure of the Home authorities, Sir Charles Elliott is going away from India under cover of medical leave, and that he will send in his resignation as soon as he reaches England. He will not do so while in India, for that, he believes, will compromise his prestige. Indeed, Sir Charles' departure from India will give the country a sense of ease and relief which it has not known during the three years that he has ruled Bengal. It is difficult to guess what a sad plight the country would have been reduced to if he had continued in office for the full term.

SANJIVANI.

39. The same paper says that though the system of forced labour was

Forced labour on the Punjab canals.

prevalent in India under the Hindu and Muhammadan rulers, and is still availed of by the zamindars whenever they have occasion for the services of

their raiyats, it has never received any encouragement from the British Government. The English are a free people, and love freedom too much to tolerate the system even in a foreign country. They have accordingly abolished the *begar* system in Egypt, and pride themselves upon the abolition. But it is a fact admitted by the Government of India itself that that Government is at this moment employing forced labour in this country. Colonel Home's report on the Punjab canals contains a clear admission to this effect. And it is difficult to guess what could be more disgraceful to the civilised English people than this record of oppression which is being committed on the Indians under their rule. It seems that the conscience of the English people leaves them when they go to a foreign country, or how could they destroy like beasts the inhabitants of Africa and the red Indians of America, and commit in human oppression on the people of India? The only check upon Englishmen in foreign countries is public opinion at home, and the Indian system of forced labour will not be abolished until public opinion is roused against it in England.

SANJIVANI.

40. The same paper says that though the country is on the verge of

New taxes.

famine, the authorities have yet decided upon imposing new taxes, and thus increasing the sufferings

of the people. It is true Government has not yet told the people explicitly what its real intentions are, but it is rumoured that there will be fresh taxation in the beginning of the rainy season, and that it will take the form of an export and import duty on cotton goods and articles manufactured from jute, an increase of salt duty, and the lowering of the minimum taxable income under the Income-tax Act to Rs. 250 per annum. An export duty on cotton goods, &c., will tell severely upon Indian manufacturers, and the import duty will raise the price of imported cotton goods, thus subjecting the people of India to dearth of clothing, in addition to dearth of food, from which they are already suffering.

BANGAVASI,
April 15th, 1893.

41. The *Bangavasi*, of the 15th April, has the following:—

Sir Charles Crosthwaite's speech at Hurdwar.

It is true the late enquiry into the breaking up of the Hurdwar fair did not give satisfaction to the Hindu community, but the subsequent efforts

of Government to improve the sanitation of the place, and the active steps it has since taken in that direction have been noticed with pleasure by that community and convinced them that Government is not unmindful of its duties towards its Indian subjects. To the Indians and particularly to the Hindus, there could be no happier news than that the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces, a representative of Her Majesty, has personally opened the newly repaired *ghats* of Harkipairi and Bhimgodda in Hurdwar for the use of the pilgrims. But the unfortunate Hindu, it seems, is not destined to know unalloyed happiness. The words which fell from Sir Charles Crosthwaite on the occasion of the opening of the *ghats* would have proved as sweet as honey for the Hindus, and soothed their perturbed feelings if they

had constituted no slanderous attack upon the Brahmans and priests of Hurdwar. Alas! that the Hindus were destined to listen to this slander.

On behalf of the British Government Sir Charles claimed credit for doing a service to the Hindus, which, according to His Honour, neither the Hindu nor the Muhammadan rulers of India had ever done for them. Well might His Honour take this credit when there is no record to show what the ancient Hindu rulers of India did for improving the sanitation of Hurdwar, and whether or not the Muhammadan rulers of the country ever went to the length of chasing out Hindu pilgrims from that place for fear of cholera breaking out among them.

The writer would take no objection to other parts of His Honour's speech, but this he must say that the slander of the Brahmans was extremely painful to the ears of the Hindus. Alas! that His Honour standing within the very precincts of the holy place should tell the Brahmans to their face that it was they who had excited the people against the Government, because the breaking up of the fair had interfered with their income. His Honour went further and said in harsh language that though these Brahmans made it a profession to cheat the pilgrims, they did not pay a single pice towards keeping the place clean.

His Honour then proceeded to say that if, in spite of the sanitary improvements now effected at Hurdwar, disease should again break out in the place, it would be necessary to disperse the pilgrims again. It is strange that the authorities should still think it fit to threaten pilgrims in this way. But loyal subjects of Government as the Hindus are, they would not much mind this, for they see what it is doing to promote their health. It was Sir Charles Crosthwaite's slanderous attack upon the Brahmans that wounded the hearts of the Hindus as with poisoned arrows. But the writer is sure that Sir Charles would never have used those words if His Honour had but known that they would thus wound Hindu feeling.

The agitation against opium and *ganja*.

42. The same paper has the following in an article headed "A policy of love":—

There is a class of people in England who profess universal love, and acting under the impulse of that love would bring salvation to the doors of foreigners by means which cannot but encompass their ruin. This is their business in life, their policy and profession. These philanthropists are now loudly proclaiming that wine is a good thing, but that *ganja* is an injurious drug, and that people should beware of ruining themselves by the use of opium and *ganja*. What they mean is that the use of spirituous liquors ought to be allowed to go on unchecked, but that the sale of opium and *ganja*, even for medicinal purposes, should not be permitted. In a word, the object of these philanthropists in setting up the present agitation against opium and *ganja* is to encourage the British trade in liquors at the expense of the people of India, and they will not be satisfied until the Government of India is forced to forego the large revenue which it derives from opium and *ganja*, and recoup the loss by fresh taxation of the people, and until the British manufacturers are enabled to swamp the earth with their liquors.

Ganja and opium have been used by the people of this country from time immemorial, but their use has not ruined them. It is wine, the use of which has gone on increasing with the expansion of British trade in this country, that is proving the ruin of its people. If these English philanthropists are sincere in their professions, let them first abolish the British trade in spirituous liquors, and then attack the Government of India's trade in *ganja* and opium. No one will then have anything to say against them. But if the agitation against *ganja* and opium is allowed to go on while the trade in wine is allowed to flourish as before, then the people of India will be forced to say that there is a selfish policy underlying the professions of these universal philanthropists.

That wine does more harm than either *ganja* or opium is because it is not only an intoxicant, but also stimulates luxury, which is not the case with *ganja* and opium. Indeed, opium is seldom used in this country, except in medicinal doses and for medicinal purposes, unless in cases of opium poisoning. Even in the matter of intoxication, liquor is far more injurious than either *ganja* or any preparation of opium. *Ganja* is generally used by the lower classes of the people, and its use only serves to make them more hard-working. It is also used

BANGAVASI,
April 15th, 1893.

to a certain extent, and for religious purposes, by certain classes of *Saithus* and *Sannyasis*. It is true the smoking of *ganja* produces injurious effects on the human system in particular cases, but what are these effects compared with the physical and moral degeneracy brought upon its votaries by liquor?

BANGAVASI,
April 16th, 1893.

43. The same paper says that the English pride themselves upon being enemies of the slave trade, and also boast of having abolished the *begar* system prevalent in this country

The *begar* system.

under Muhammadan rule. But is there really any foundation for such pride and boast? The system of forced labour by which work is being carried on in the Panjab canals clearly proves that that is an empty boast. It appears from the public reports that not only are men forced to work, but that they are fined for non-attendance, and fines to the extent of one lakh of rupees have been collected in connection with the Punjab works.

BANGAVASI.

44. The same paper says that speculation is rife as to the nature of the new tax that is likely to be imposed. According

A new tax.

to some people the scope of the income-tax will be extended; some are talking of an increase either of the export and the import duties or of the salt duty, others again are pointing their finger at tobacco. But nothing is as yet certain as to the nature of the new tax. All that can be said now is that a re-imposition of the import duty will be impossible, as it will clash with the interests of the British manufacturers. The increase of the rates of the income-tax is also doubtful, as Anglo-Indian interests are likely to suffer from such increase. The only way in which this tax may be made to yield a larger revenue is to fix a lower taxable minimum. The other probable taxes are an increase of the salt duty and a tax on tobacco. But these will fall heavily on the poor. The writer would suggest, instead, the imposition of taxes on tea, coffee, and kerosine-oil.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

SAHACHAR,
April 12th, 1893.

The election of Members for the
Bengal Council.

45. The *Sahachar*, of the 12th April, has the following:—

In electing members for the Bengal Council, the people should bear in mind that the Legislative Councils are not ceremonial assemblages, and that no man need be returned to them simply on considerations of race or family. The acts of the legislature affect the whole country, and it is therefore absolutely necessary that such men should be returned to the Councils as have the necessary qualifications. Will the people now forget that they have hitherto blamed Government for filling the Legislative Councils with ornamental members and themselves commit the same mistake in the election of the members which Government has been so long committing?

Now to begin with the mufassal. If there be any eligible person in the Nawab family of Dacca, let him be returned as a member. If Maulavi Abdul Soban stands as a candidate, let not the people of Rajshahi oppose his candidature. Everybody knows what Babu Surendra Nath Banerji has done and is still doing for his country. And as he has stood as a candidate for the membership on behalf of the Calcutta Municipality, the two other candidates ought to withdraw from the field. Let the candidates for the Memberships on behalf of the University and the Municipality of Calcutta remember the story how a lion and a bear fought over the dead body of a deer, and how, when they were exhausted with the fight, the thing for which they fought was taken away by a jackal. It is stated in the Anglo Indian papers that some of the European Commissioners of the Calcutta Municipality contemplate electing a member in concert with the Muhammadan Commissioners. This is the old dodge of the Europeans to create differences between the Hindus and the Mussalmans. They simply want to use the Mussalmans as a means of gaining their own ends. They have no reason to love the latter, and as a matter of fact, they suspect them more than they suspect the Hindus. Why then this sudden and unexpected favour to them? Old Æsop has given an answer to the question. A goat and a jackal jumped into a well for the purpose of allaying their thirst. When they had done drinking the water, the jackal said to the goat, "you stand erect and let me get out of the well with the help of your horns and when I have got out, I will devise means

for your rescue." The goat did what he was asked to do, and the jackal came out of the well. But when the goat asked for his help the jackal said: "If the measure of your intelligence had been half that of your beard, you would have thought of your means of escape before jumping into the well." The Mussulmans should beware of being ultimately left in the lurch like the goat in the fable. The Hindus and the Mussulmans should act unitedly in the matter, forgetting all questions of caste and creed. Government has given them an invaluable right, and it will rest with themselves whether or not this right will be gradually extended. Let them call to memory the words of Mr. Maclean in the course of the discussion over Lord Cross' Indian Councils Bill that the Hindus and the Mussulmans have no unity, and that they will quarrel so much over the election of Members for the Councils that it seems undesirable that any one in India but the English should be entrusted with power. The people should therefore act with caution in the present matter, and let no man be elected a member simply because he is a Hindu or a Mussulman. When a Hindu is the only eligible candidate, let him be elected a member; when a Mussulman is the fittest candidate in the field, let him, in the absence of Mussulman voters, be elected by Hindu votes. Englishmen act on this principle in their own country. For instance, the Mayor of London and Mr. Goschen, who was the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the Salisbury Ministry, are Jews, while Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji, an Indian, is a Member of Parliament. The Moghul emperors also distributed the highest posts in their gift irrespective of all consideration of caste and creed. Even now there are Mussulman ministers in the Hindu States and Hindu ministers in the Muhammadan States of India. The people should profit by these examples. There are some Anglo-Indians who want to create differences between Hindus and Mussulmans. The Hindus have already found out the trick which these men employ for the purpose, and the Muhammadans should beware of it.

46. The *Pratihar*, of the 14th April, fully supports the recommendation of the *Sanjivani*, that Babu Baikunta Nath Sen, of the Berhampore bar, should be elected by the Presidency Division Municipalities for a membership of the Bengal Council, and says that Babu Baikunta possesses, in a pre-eminent degree, all the qualifications required in a non-official member of the Council.

PRATIKAR,
April 14th, 1893.

Election by the Calcutta Municipality of a Member for the Bengal Council.

47. The *Sudhakar*, of the 14th April, has the following on the election, by the Calcutta Corporation, of a Member for the Bengal Council:—

SUDHAKAR,
April 14th, 1893.

As there is no chance of a Muhammadan being elected, the Muhammadans should give their votes to some one who would most likely protect their interests. Of the three candidates that are fighting for a seat in the Council, Babu Surendra Nath Banerji is, undoubtedly, the fittest. The Muhammadans ought to vote for him, as he is a man of independence and likely to do much for them.

48. The *Banganivasi*, of the 14th April, expresses delight at the election of Babu Surendra Nath Banerji by the Municipal Commissioners of Calcutta for a seat in the Bengal Council.

BANGANIVASI,
April 14th, 1893.

Babu Surendra Nath Banerji's election to the Bengal Council.

49. The same paper says that Government ought to appoint at least two Muhammadan members to the Bengal Council. It is true that the Muhammadans will not be able to return members from among themselves by election, but for that reason their interest ought not to go unrepresented in the Council.

BANGANIVASI.

50. The *Sulabh Dainik*, of the 15th April, expresses delight at the election of Babu Surendra Nath Banerji, by the Municipal Commissioners for a seat in the Bengal Council.

SULABH DAINIK,
April 15th, 1893.

Babu Surendra Nath Banerji's election to the Bengal Council.

51. The same paper says that of the two candidates, Messrs. A. M. Bose and W. C. Bonnerji, for the University membership in the Bengal Council, Mr. Bonnerji has a superior claim, inasmuch as he is an older member of the

SULABH DAINIK.

Members for the Bengal Council from the Presidency Division Municipalities.

Bar than Mr. Bose, and has, it must be admitted, acquired greater reputation in the profession.

The names of Babu Baikuntha Nath Sen and Mr. Lal Mohan Ghose have been mentioned in connection with the membership for the municipalities of the Presidency division. The people of the Presidency division will be glad to see Mr. Ghose returned to the Council.

SANJIVANI,
April 15th, 1893.

52. The *Sanjivani*, of the 15th April, in an article headed "Good News," exults at the election of Babu Surendra Nath Banerji by the Municipal Commissioners of Calcutta for a seat in the Bengal Council, and says that by electing him the Commissioners have acted judiciously and done credit to the rate-payers of Calcutta.

BANGAVASI,
April 15th, 1893.

53. The *Bangavasi*, of the 15th April, says that there is nothing to wonder at in the victory obtained by the employers of cooly-labour in the discussion of the Inland Emigration Bill when they had an advocate of their cause in Sir Philip Hutchins himself. Under the new law the coolies will be no better off than they were before.

DACCA GAZETTE,
April 17th, 1893.

54. The *Dacca Gazette*, of the 17th April, says that it is a matter of rejoicing that the Calcutta Corporation has elected Babu Surendra Nath Banerji for a membership of the Bengal Council. All Bengal will be glad to hear of his success.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
April 18th, 1893.

55. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 18th April, says that Babu Surendra Nath Banerji has been elected a member for the Bengal Council by the Calcutta Municipality, and it is likely that Mr. W. C. Bonnerji will be returned by the University. Of the four candidates to be returned by mufassal municipalities and District Boards, the congressists are likely to form the majority. Thus it looks as if the influence of the Congress men will preponderate in the Council. The writer sees nothing objectionable in this, but there will be cause for fear and uneasiness if the influence of Congress men means the influence of the party of social reform. For in that case what happened in the Viceregal Council on the occasion of the passing of the Consent Act may also happen in the Bengal Council. Government has been for some time contemplating interference in the management of the devattar properties, and if a Bill dealing with the subject is brought before the Bengal Council, the Babu members—the advocates of social reform—are sure to give cause for alarm. The writer does not, of course, think that the present system of election in which Babudom takes an important part, and which is not the true thing but only a sorry adaptation of the British system, can be free from various shortcomings, but what he thinks is that since there must be election, let the people of the country take steps to prevent the election of the *ultra* Babus.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

BANGAVASI,
April 15th, 1893.

56. The *Bangavasi*, of the 15th April, says that just now there is so great scarcity of water in the Hooghly district that Government has come forward with offers of *takavi* loans in order to induce people to excavate new tanks and to re-excavate old ones in that district. But the high rate of interest, viz., 6 per cent. per annum, which is demanded by Government prevents them from taking advantage of these loans. Government ought to reconsider the question of the rate of interest. And loans should be granted not only for the excavation of tanks for irrigation purposes, but also for the excavation of such tanks as may supply villagers with pure drinking water.

SAMAJ-O-SABITYA,
April 16th, 1893.

57. The *Samaj-o-Sahitya*, of the 16th April, says that timely rain at long intervals is doing good to the crops. Good prospects are entertained for the *aus* and the jute crops.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
April 20th, 1893.

58. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 20th April, says that severe scarcity of food is being felt all over the Burdwan Division. The statement of the Divisional Commissioner that the suffering does not extend to all places

nor to all people in the Division, and that the latter are not without their means of livelihood are erroneous. And it is owing to such errors made by officials that the late Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Cecil Beadon, had to encounter serious difficulties in the terrible Orissa famine of 1864, in which fifteen lakhs of people died of starvation.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

59. The *Sahachar*, of the 12th April, has the following:—To-day is the last day of the thirteenth century of the Bengali era. It was during this century that British rule was, properly speaking, established in India. During the greater part of it India has been treated as a conquered country. But the rights, which the people have obtained in the course of the last ten years, have given rise to the hope that in the course of the new century India will be in the same condition in which Scotland, Canada and Australia are found at the present time. England has done incalculable good to India, and the writer exhorts the people to pray to God for the long life of the Maharani. The English people deserve honour and respect at the hands of the Indians, and it is their duty to uphold the honour of England.

SAHACHAR,
April 12th, 1893.

60. The *Bankura Darpan*, of the 15th April, says that innumerable coolies are being daily sent away from the southern and the western part of the district of Bankura. It is said that scarcity of food prevailing in the district is the cause of this sudden increase in the business of cooly-recruitment.

BANKURA DARPAN,
April 15th, 1893.

61. The *Bangavasi*, of the 15th April, has the following in the course of a review of the Bengali century which ended on the 12th April last:—It is during the last hundred years that British rule in India, which commenced before that time, has become completely developed and consolidated. It is just a century since the English rulers introduced the permanent settlement in Bengal. The zamindars who existed before that settlement have mostly disappeared, their place being taken up by petty landholders. The sunset law has been the death-blow to a good many zamindars. Many who were influential zamindars before the permanent settlement have either totally disappeared or have been reduced to insignificant positions, and zamindars who were insignificant before have now become influential. This is one of the principal changes which have come over the country in the course of the past century.

BANGAVASI,
April 15th, 1893.

It is during the last hundred years that the scions of noble families have learnt to take a pride in service.

It is during the past century that laws and regulations have come to be accurately codified. Before this the country possessed no code of laws, but now even the bed-room affairs of the people are governed by fixed laws. This is a matter for every man to take particular note of. Even the poorest peasant has now come to enjoy rights of his own, and can defy the richest zamindar. The old patriarchal relation between a zamindar and his raiyats has been completely obliterated, and has come to be replaced by feelings of universal equality and fraternity.

A hundred years before there was nothing like education in the country; but now Universities are sown broadcast over it. But in proportion as learning has increased, poverty has taken hold of the people.

It is during the past hundred years that commerce has reached its present proportions. It is true Indian weavers have been nearly extirpated, but the people feel no want for clothes. Cultivation has increased, though the people have scarcely enough to eat the whole year round. There have been unprecedented improvements in the mechanical appliances—even man himself has been reduced to a machine.

Religion has made vast strides within the last century, God himself having come to be regarded as a nonentity.

It is during the past century that the civilised Babu has sprung into existence. A hundred years ago modern civilisation with its attendant luxuries and foppishness was quite unknown in this country. A hundred years ago

"patriotism" with its accompaniment of public meetings, public speeches, and anxiety for the deliverance of the country was quite unknown.

Last, but not least, of all, disease has made great strides during the last century. A hundred years ago the name of a doctor was seldom heard, but now-a-days disease and medicine have taken their permanent abode in every family.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
April 17th, 1893.

62. In reviewing the thirteenth century of the Bengali era, the *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 17th April, says:—

Towards the closing years of the thirteenth century of the Bengali era, the Congress and a sham self-government have come into existence. Zamindars have lost their power, and caste distinctions have almost disappeared. Government has made the criminal administration of justice more rigorous than it formerly was. The manufacture of cloth in India has entirely ceased, that of salt has almost disappeared. There is, in fact, a marked retrogression in every department of Indian manufacture, which is completely giving way to European competition.

NÁRÁYAN CHANDRA BHATTÁCHÁRYYA,

Officiating Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 22nd April 1893.